THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Indian troops have suffer<;d some casualties on account $_0$f th$_e$ climatic conditions an<j the problem of high altitude i$_n$ the Siachen Glacier area. It would not be desirable to disclose detail$_s$ in this regard.

(c) Necessary measures have bee$_n$ taken by Government to prevent casualties amongs$_t$ our troops due to extreme °°ld the high attitude problem$_s$ in the area. These include provision of special snow clothing, mountaineering and ski equipment, special arctic tents, snow mobiles and fibre glass shelters, provision of adequate medical facilities and periodic turn over of troops.

Strengthening of the Indian Navy

1603. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Navy, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a f^{act} that ther$_e$ is an extensive presenc$_e$ of the foreign Nava] powers in Indian ocean; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps take$_n$ t$_0$ strengthen the Indian Navy to meet any external threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV); 0a) to (c) Government is aware of the extensive military presence of external forces i$_n$ **the** Indian Ocean. Government keeps all developments having a bearing on the country's security under constant watch and takes appropriate counter-measures, from time to time, to m'aintai$_n$ full defence preparedness. The Indian Navy i$_s$ being cons$_T$ tantly re-equipped, modernised and developed in! keeping with the emergi^ threat perceptions.

Per capita income in the States

1604. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national per capita income at current prices for the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 and how does it reflect in the actual positio$_n$ i$_n$ respect of availability of goods and services to the bulk of the under priviledged sections mostly living in the rural areas in the country;

(b) which of the States have the lowest per capita income (with figures); and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation in the States which have the lowest pei capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGKENGTI): (a) The National Per Cap Income at current pi ices tor the yea 1985-86 was Rs! 2721 (Provisional) and Rs. 2975 (quick estimates) for the yeai * 1986-87 (As per New Series on National Accounts Statistics). The national per capita income is an indicator of average per capita availability of goods and services on the national level.

(b) The State-wise information of p;r capita net State domestic product at current prices f«r th$_e$ year 1986-87 is available only in respect of 12 States and 2 Union Territories. The per capita State domestic product at current prices for the year 1985-86 is however, available in respect of most of the States The all-India estimates are prspared by using all the data available to Central Statistical Organisation from various sources. The State Governments prepare these estimates based on Sfate-wise data available to hem. Therefore, all-India estimates and State-wise estimates are not shictly comparable. Even betwee.i the States, owing to difference in methodology and

source material used, these estimates are not comparable. Subject to these limitations, the following States had per capita income lower than the all-India per capita net national product during 1985-86 (As per pre-icvised series of NAS).

Sl. No.	Name of State	Per capita net State domestic product at current prices for the year 1985-86
1	Andhra Pradesh . .	2184
2	Assam	2068
3	Bihar	1548
4	Himachal Pradesh . .	2542
5	Jammu & Kashmir .	2173
6	Karnataka . . .	2264
7	Kerala	2140
8	Madhya Pradesh . .	1960
9	Manipur . . .	2383
10	Meghalaya . . .	1981
11	Orissa	1954
12	Rajasthan . . .	2043
13	Tamil Nadu . . .	2353
14	Tripura . . .	2065
15	Uttar Pradesh . .	2003

(c) The Central Government have taken several steps to improve the position of such States. The important measures among hese are given below.

(i) Transfer of resources from the Central Government to the State Governments tor meeting their Plan expenditure according to a formula which is weighted in favour of the backward State* whose per capita income is below the national average.

(ii) Devolution on non-plan resources in accordance with the award of the Eighth Finance Commission which favours the backward States and seeks t^ reduce disparity between the States in addition to covering the revenue gap.

(iii) Providing Special Central Assi*-tance for the development of backward areas in the States such as, hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas and also areas having concentration ot tribal popuhuion.

(iv) Providing special incentives in the form of investment subsidy and concessional finance for accelerating the industrial development of the industrially backward regions in the States; and

(v) While making statewise allocation of resources under poverty alleviation programmes niOTe emphasis is being given to the incidence of poverty during the 7th Plan as compared to that in 6th Plan. Thus the States with higher poverty ratio will get higher allocations of funds for these programmes.

Vacancies of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court

1605. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a numbei of vacancies of judges exist in the Andhra Pradesh High Court; if so, the numbei thereof and since when these arc vacant; and

(b) by when these will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND 1UST1CE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ); (a) As on 7-3-88, there v/ere 3 vacancies of permanent Judges and 2 vacancies of Additional Judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court out of the sanctioned strength of 24 permanent Judg'es and 2 Additional